

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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City doesn't have a monopoly on planning; use your "coupons" to vote for projects

Nov. 15, 2013 – Determining the city's strategic priorities for major capital projects isn't a game, but that doesn't mean there can't be an element of fun involved.

In the game Monopoly, participants spend game money to select and buy desirable properties or add upgrades to enhance their property. Hampton residents can use similar color-coded coupons to vote for the projects they think are best for Hampton's future on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 10 a.m. at Kecoughtan High School, 522 Woodland Road.

In all seriousness, the city's five-year Community Improvement Plan is a schedule for upgrades to current facilities and development of new projects that support the goal making Hampton the "Most Livable Community in Virginia." The first year of the plan becomes part of the city manager's recommended budget each year. The other years serve as guidelines and goals for the future.

This will be the second public forum, in which residents will learn a more about the capital improvement process and then use their coupons to show support for projects not currently in the approved funding plan.

Because a healthy city can't invest in only one type of project, residents will help select the priorities within each of these categories: Economic development/master plans/neighborhoods; maintenance of existing facilities/parks/schools; public safety; streets and infrastructure; waterways; and new or greatly expanded facilities. In addition, wild card coupons can be used to show support in any area for any project. Residents can also write in projects if they want to see something not on the list of proposals.

The forum – and subsequent online input – will help City Manager Mary Bunting and her staff prioritize projects and timing, and submit a plan to City Council.

For more information on Hampton's Capital Improvement Plan, and to see the 2014-2018 plan that was approved by City Council, go to www.hampton.gov/budget

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